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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-00 AIS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 NSC-01 NSAE-00
SY-05 PM-09 NCT-02 SP-02 055 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8055
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PAN/INTAFF
DIA WASHDC
UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 3274
E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJ: VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW: MARCH 27-APRIL 2
1. SUMMARY. POLITICAL VIOLENCE DURING EL SALVADOR'S ELECTION WEEK CLAIMED A REPORTED 72 VICTIMS. IN ADDITION, NINE PERSONS WERE REPORTED DISAPPEARED. UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS SPOKE OF THE DEATHS IN ACTION OF 16 SOLDIERS AND 404 (SIC) GUERRILLAS. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, GUERRILLA ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT THE ELECTIONS WERE A STUNNING FAILURE. VIOLENCE AGAINST POLITICAL PARTIES CONTINUED. ONE NEWLY-ELECTED DEPUTY WAS MURDERED AND THERE WERE FURTHER ATTACKS AGAINST PERSONS AND BUILDINGS. END SUMMARY.
2. DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES. POLITICAL VIOLENCE
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DURING THE WEEK, WHICH INCLUDED EL SALVADOR'S ELECTIONDAY, CLAIMED A REPORTED TOTAL OF 72 LIVES. THIRTEEN OF THE DEATHS WERE ATTRIBUTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS TO LEFTIST GUERRILLAS. INCLUDED IN THIS NUMBER IS THE DEATH OF CHILEAN JOURNALIST CARLOS RUIZ, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY CAUGHT IN A CROSS-FIRE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND GUERRILLAS. ONE ADDITIONAL DEATH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SECURITY FORCES WHILE THE PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REMAINING 48 DEATHS COULD NOT BE ASCERTAINED. IN ADDITION TO THOSE KILLED, TOTAL OF NINE PERSONS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED. NO RESPONSIBILITY WAS FIXED IN ANY OF THESE CASES. FINALLY, UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS SPOKE OF THE DEATHS IN FIGHT
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY FS DATE 10/29/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

-ING 15 SOLDIERS AND 404 GUERRILLAS. THIS LATER FIGURE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY AN EXAGGERATION.
3. STATISTICS. THE BODIES OF THE 72 IDENTIFIABLE VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE WERE DISCOVERED IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS;
SAN SALVDOR (CITY) 16
SAN SALVDOR (DEPARTMENT 23
SANATA ANA 12
LA LIBERTAD 8
SAN VICENTE 4
SAN MIGUEL 3
SONSONATE 1
TOTAL 72
AN AGE BREAKDOWN OF THE DEAD YIELDS THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:
A. AGES 17 AND UNDER 3
B. AGES 18-25 16
C. AGES 26-35 8
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D. AGES 36-50 4
E. AGES 51AND OVER 5
F. UNKNOWN 36
TOTAL 72
A BREAKDOWN OF THE DEAD BY OCCUPATION PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
STUDENTS 3
DRIVER 1
EMPLOYEES 2
TAILOR 1
LABORER 1
NIGHT WATCHMAN 1
JOURANLIST 1
COFFEE CUTTERS 2
UNKNOWN 48
ALMINISTRATOR 1
DRESS MAKER 1
MERCHANT 1
FARMERS 2
TYPOGRAPHER 1
PATRULLEROS 4
PHONE OPERATOR 1
GREEN CROSS VOLUNTEER 1
TOTAL 72
4. INCIDENTS. GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON ELECTION DAY WERE PRINCIPALLY DIRECTED AT THE CITY OF USULUTAN AND THE NORTHERN SUBURBS OF SAN SALVDOR. ONLY IN USULUTAN CITY AND AIN A NUMBER OF TOWNS IN BATTLEGROUND DEPARTMENTS (MORAZAN, CHALATENANGO, ETC. WAS VOTING SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED. GUERRILLA ACTIVITY DURING THE REMAINIER

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OF THE WEEK WAS CONFINED TO THE USUAL HARASSING
TACTICS. MANY CONTACTS BETWEEN GUERRILLA FORCES AND
GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE REPORTED AS WELL. POLITICAL
VIOLENCE CONTINUED AFTER THE ELECTIONS WHEN A
BOMB WAS HURLED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PARTIDO DE
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CONCILIACION NACIONAL (PCN). IN LATE DEVELOPMENTS,
AN ALIANZA REPUBLICANS NACAIONALISTA (ARENA) DEPUTY
WAS MURDERED. THE CME OF A SECOND ARENA DEPTY WAS
ATTACKED, AND THE HOME OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
MAYOR OF SANTA TECLA WAS MACHINE-GUNNED. IN NONE
OF THESE CASES COULD RESPONSIBILITY BE DETERMINED.
(THESE ATTACKS ARE REPORTED SEPTEL).
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